

Remarks

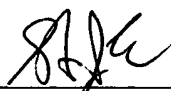
New claims 31-39 have been added. Prompt and favorable review is requested.

Each of new claims 31, 34 and 37 specify that the binding mechanism is fixedly and non-rotatably coupled to the spine. For example, Fig. 3 illustrates the binding mechanism 26 coupled to the front 12 and rear 14 covers. It is submitted that claims 31, 34 and 37 do not add any new matter because it is well known to one of ordinary skill in the art that a three-ring binding mechanism such as that shown in Fig. 3 is ordinarily fixedly and non-rotatably coupled to the cover by, for example, rivets. In particular, rivet holes can be seen below each of the rings of the binding mechanism 26 (see e.g., Fig. 3).

Each of claims 32, 35 and 38 specify that at least one of the front or rear covers includes attachment means that can be operated to couple the front and rear covers to form the self-supporting binder. New claims 33, 36 and 39 specify that the attachment means is located on both the front and rear covers.

The applicant(s) hereby authorizes the Commissioner under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3) to treat any paper that is filed in this application which requires an extension of time as incorporating a request for such an extension. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees required by this paper or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0809.

Respectfully submitted,



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